

## MINUTES

### PUEBLO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

OCTOBER 28, 2021

A meeting of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments was held on Thursday, October 28, 2021, at the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management, 101 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mark Aliff, PACOG Chairman, at 12:15 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Mark Aliff  
Larry Atencio  
Ed Brown  
Michael Cafasso  
Barbara Clementi  
Staphanie Cordova-Catalano

Epimenio Griego  
Ed Gutierrez  
Garrison Ortiz  
Doug Proal  
Chris Wiseman

Those members absent were:

Zolanye McCulley-Bachicha  
Greg Collins  
Dennis Flores

Bob Schilling  
Lori Winner

Also present were:

John Adams  
Nick Gradisar  
Carmen Howard

Dan Kogovsek  
Louella Salazar

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS** (Citizen Comments)

There were no public comments.

#### **CONSENT ITEMS:**

Ms. Carmen Howard, PACOG Manager, reported there were three items listed on the agenda under the Consent Items. She summarized the Consent Items for PACOG.

Chairman Aliff asked if there were any other additions or amendments to the Consent Items or if any of the members or audience would like an item removed or discussed that was on the Consent agenda. There were no other additions or amendments.

It was moved by Ed Brown, seconded by Garrison Ortiz, and passed unanimously to approve the three Consent Items listed below:

- Minutes of August 26, 2021 Meeting;
- Treasurer's Report (Receive and file August and September Financial Reports); and

- A Resolution Approving the 2022 Delegation Agreement Between the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) and the City of Pueblo, a Colorado Municipal Corporation for Transportation Planning Services, Authorizing the Chair of the Council to Execute the Same, and Authorizing and Directing the Urban Transportation Planning Division to Administer the Agreement in Compliance with All Applicable Federal, State, and Local Laws and Regulations.

**REGULAR ITEMS:**

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

(A) Lunch Appreciation

Chairman Aliff thanked the Salt Creek Sanitation District for providing lunch for today's meeting.

(B) Schedule December Meeting

Chairman Aliff reported the following two dates are possible dates for the December meeting (i.e., December 2 or 9). He stated the Board of County Commissioners have a contentious land use hearing on December 9<sup>th</sup>, so December 2<sup>nd</sup> would work better for them. It was agreed that the next regularly scheduled PACOG meeting would be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

(C) Schedule PACOG Budget Committee Meeting

Chairman Aliff stated a PACOG Budget Committee meeting needs to be scheduled. The members consist of Garrison Ortiz, Larry Atencio, and Chris Wiseman. Ms. Salazar stated she would contact the Budget Committee members and schedule the meeting.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

(A) ADA Advisory Committee Minutes

Ms. Howard reported the minutes of the September 3, 2021 ADA Advisory Committee meeting is in the PACOG members' packets.

This being an information item, no formal action was taken.

(B) Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Howard reported the Comprehensive Plan is in its draft form. She stated a lot of them have been working hard to keep updated with it in various committees and commissions. She stated she would have Ms. Salazar send out a link to the draft Plan in an email. She stated her group has been working hard to move this forward. She hoped that everyone looks at it and comments.

**TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER/CDOT REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Dan Dahlke, CDOT, reported CDOT is moving forward with dirt on the Purcell project. Most of the dirt on the east side has been put in. They are waiting for settlement to come out on the east side. They are expecting 8" but are currently at 1". The dirt will be sitting for a few months before they start working on the abutment. Work has started on the west side. They are working through the change with the contractor. They are looking at doing below ground detention pond versus

above ground. They are working with Pueblo West and the County in obtaining approval, noting Pueblo West and County will be doing the maintenance for the above ground or below ground pond. Switching to a below ground pond will involve a little more. An amendment will need to be done to the current intergovernmental agreement CDOT has with Pueblo West. CDOT is still on track with completion of the project by Fall 2022. Major construction on the bridge will probably start in December.

Mr. Dahlke reported upcoming projects include a large overlay on Highway 50 from Bonforte/Hudson to Avondale Boulevard. It will be about a 15-mile project. ADA work will be done at Bonforte, Norwood, and Troy. Bridge improvements will also be done. It is anticipated that additional clearance will be done on the railroad underpass where there have been a few accidents. It is a \$20 million project.

Chairman Aliff stated he had questions which were received from Mr. Dennis Flores. He asked what was happening with the two rest stops north of Pueblo on I-25. Mr. Dahlke replied CDOT is still working on it. He stated there is a discussion on a Statewide policy. They are looking at doing Statewide sponsorships where private companies would come in and sponsor the rest stops. He stated there are other states doing this. It is in process, noting he didn't have enough information, but he would follow up and see if he could have a better answer for the next meeting. Chairman Aliff stated it would be helpful to have a timeframe.

Chairman Aliff inquired about Highway 78 West going to Beulah with respect to the right-in/right-out issue. He stated Mr. Zamora stated he would call Mr. Flores and he hasn't done so. Mr. Dahlke stated he would let Mr. Zamora know that he needs to call Mr. Flores.

Mr. Atencio stated a few months he asked CDOT to look at erecting a pedestrian light at 4<sup>th</sup> and Monument Street. The neighbors in the area are concerned with children crossing at the intersection. He stated there is a pedestrian light at 4<sup>th</sup> and Lacrosse but it isn't used as much. He stated the traffic moves fast at the 4<sup>th</sup> and Monument intersection. He stated Mr. Zamora indicated he would look at this. Mr. Dahlke stated he would add this to Mr. Zamora's list.

#### STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) UPDATE

Mr. Chris Wiseman, PACOG STAC representative, reported he was not able to be at the last STAC meeting. He asked Mr. Adams if he could provide an update. Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported he attended the October 15<sup>th</sup> STAC meeting. He stated there was a lot of discussion on the 10-Year Plan update. Senate Bill 260 was approved a few months ago, and it is giving CDOT funds to advance their 10-year projects into a four-year period. CDOT is starting to develop a new 10-year list. Also discussed was the greenhouse gas emissions. Staff has been working on it for seven months. The comment period has been extended to November 18, 2021 on greenhouse gas emissions. STAC also discussed a couple of grants on travel demand modeling.

#### STATUS ON SOUTHWEST CHIEF PASSENGER RAIL

Mr. Chris Wiseman, PACOG Southwest Chief Passenger Rail representative, reported the meeting was held on Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. They are still in the process of transitioning from the Southwest Chief to the Front Range Rail. Some of the issues that came up were the updates on the CRISI grants, which affect La Junta to the Colorado border. The Commission is still in the process of restructuring, noting this should be done by January. At that time, there will be new members, but PACOG will still have its spot on the Commission. There will be representatives from the I-70

corridor added to the Commission. There will also be ex officio members added. The next meeting is in November, and the discussion will be mostly regarding restructuring.

### MPO STAFF REPORT

(A) A Resolution to Accept the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Safety Performance Measure Targets for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as per 23 U.S.C.

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported this resolution would accept CDOT's Safety Performance Measure Targets. When the FAST Act came out, one of the requirements was the safety performance goals, as well as a matrix for doing this. During the last several years, PACOG has accepted the State's safety performance measures, and this year there is no exception. He stated, in 2022, staff will be developing a Countywide safety plan. At that time, PACOG will need to adopt its own safety targets for the local MPO.

It was moved by Larry Atencio, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve "A Resolution to Accept the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Safety Performance Measure Targets for the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as per 23 U.S.C."

(B) Public Participation Plan

Ms. Eva Cosyleon, PACOG MPO staff, reported the Public Participation Plan has been updated. What was included was verbiage about virtual meetings, since this was a huge part of what occurred the last year and a half. Conference calls were included as part of the Plan. This will be considered as an option with all their meetings going forward.

It was moved by Ed Brown, seconded by Michael Cafasso, and passed unanimously to approve the Public Participation Plan, as presented.

(C) Title VI Plan

Ms. Eva Cosyleon, PACOG MPO staff, reported general updates were done to the Title VI Plan. She reviewed the Plan to see if there were any amendments to the rules or laws concerning Title VI, noting nothing really changed. She stated there were some address changes done to contacts and representatives.

It was moved by Larry Atencio, seconded by Ed Brown, and passed unanimously to approve the Title VI Plan, as presented.

(D) CDOT Region II Request(s) for PACOG MPO/TPR TIP Amendment(s) FY 2022-2025  
Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported U.S. 50 and Purcell is advancing quite well. CDOT has run into problems with water and will be constructing another detention pond either above ground or below ground. The project fund amendment cost is \$832,000.

(E) GHG Rulemaking Comment Period (Comment Period) has been extended to November 18, 2021

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported the comment period for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Rulemaking has been extended to November 18, 2021. Comments can be made at [codot.gov](http://codot.gov) by typing "ghg".

This being an information item only, no formal action was taken.

(F) Support Letter to Southern Colorado Economic Development District (SCEDD) Supporting Southern Colorado's Build Back Better Regional Challenge Proposal

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported the City took ownership for the economic development grant for the Build Back Better program. He stated a letter of support was signed by Chairman Aliff, on behalf of PACOG.

This being an information item only, no formal action was taken.

(G) Announcement for One (1) Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Applicant

Mr. John Adams, MPO Manager, reported there is an opening on the Citizen Advisory Committee on Transportation. PACOG makes the appointment. He asked the members if they knew someone who was interested to let him know. He stated the appointment would be a replacement for one of the members who is not able to attend the meetings anymore.

This being an information item only, no formal action was taken.

(H) Other Transportation Matters

Mr. Ted Lopez asked if the issues on the Highway 50 and Purcell project is dealing with wastewater issues or stormwater issues. Mr. Dahlke, CDOT, replied it is wastewater. He stated as part of the process for dewatering, CDOT had to submit samples of the water that is coming out of the ground to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. It was tested, and it has high levels of selenium and nickel. The Health Department is requiring CDOT to do special remediation. There is only one company in the State that can take the water. CDOT trucks the water from Pueblo to north of Denver. It is treated in Denver and additional water is bought to replace it into their basin. Additional funding has had to be added twice to the project to get it completed. It runs anywhere from \$100,000 to \$200,000 a month. On the pond project, CDOT is running about \$1.5 million, and the big project is \$2.5 million. CDOT is trying to work with the Health Department to get this figured out, but, at this time, they are over on selenium and nickel. He stated there are two options, which are getting it treated by Pueblo West or the City of Pueblo. Both options are not feasible because they are also dealing with the same high selenium issue.

Mr. Kogovsek asked if this is ongoing. Mr. Dahlke replied the pond project has been completed and no additional funding will need to be added. He stated anytime you have to do anything which is underground, and the water is coming out of the ground while physically constructing it, some type of remediation needs to be done. He stated there are big red tanks sitting on the side of the construction area which they pump the water into and then it is pumped into other trucks who haul it off to Denver. Mr. Kogovsek asked if CDOT could obtain a waiver from the Colorado Water Quality

Control Commission. Mr. Dahlke replied the Health Department said no. He stated CDOT is working on it and is aware of it and is getting it done. In the past, the contractor was responsible for getting the dewatering permit. The Health Department now requires that the water be tested.

Mr. Atencio asked if this is groundwater. Mr. Dahlke replied yes. He stated CDOT is working on the issue, and getting it done through remediation.

Mr. Proal asked how much over were they on the acceptable limit on selenium. Mr. Dahlke answered 3 parts per million. He stated the Health Department was OK with the selenium, but the nickel added into it made it worse.

Mr. Griego asked how many gallons is pumped. Mr. Dahlke replied there was a time when they were running four trucks 24/7. Each one of the trucks can haul around 5,000 gallons.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Ortiz stated there was a Board of County Commissioners' meeting held in Avondale about two months ago. There were a lot of questions about infrastructure and drainage issues. He stated CDOT staff were in attendance and were very helpful. He stated CDOT went out to the area and switched the culvert and solved the drainage issue. He stated this went a long way in Avondale.

Mr. Ortiz stated there were CDOT staff present at the Joe Martinez Boulevard meeting. He stated they helped answer questions on permitting considerations, which will come up in the future. He stated CDOT staff were very responsive and helpful and thanked them for their efforts.

Chairman Aliff announced that Mr. Hugh Parker has resigned as the 2030 Commission's representative to PACOG.

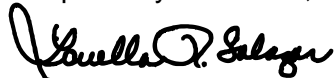
#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future items.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business before PACOG, the meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 12:15 p.m. (Note: The meeting will be held at the Pueblo County Emergency Operations Center, 101 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 1st Floor Conference Room. The meeting will also be held virtually on Zoom.)

Respectfully submitted,



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Louella R. Salazar  
PACOG Recording Secretary

LRS